What is Influencing Antibiotic Usage among University Students?

An Explanatory Qualitative Inquiry of Antibiotic Usage in Urban Bangladesh

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Introduction

- **Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the greatest threats to human health. The emergence of antibiotic-resistant pathogens is a major public health issue as their spread may compromise the ability to treat existing and emerging common infectious diseases (Gajdács 2019; Gajdács and Albericio, 2019; WHO, 2022).**
- **With antibiotic consumption being the primary driver of AMR WHO estimates that over 50% of antibiotics available in the pharmaceutical market globally are used for self-medication (WHO 2022).**
- **AMR is causing more deaths in LMICS where resources are constrained, health care systems are weaker, and infection rates are high (WHO 2022).**

Objective

- **The purpose of this study was to explore the factors that influence the practices of antibiotic usage among university students of urban Bangladesh.**

Methodology

Study Design & Site
- Explanatory Qualitative Inquiry
- Dhaka City Corporation

Sampling
- Convenience sampling
- 46 university students from different academic background

Interview Technique
- In-depth Interview Focus Group Discussion
- Semi structured Interview guideline

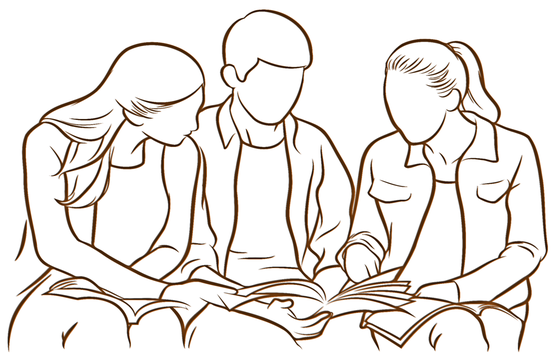
Analysis
- Thematic Analysis
- COREQ Guideline

FINDINGS

Perspectives & Practices on Antibiotic Usage

- Lack of minimum Knowledge about antibiotic usage
- Rely on family advice or peer recommendations
- Improper use of antibiotics
- Antibiotic is cure of all disease
- Intake antibiotics for quick recovery
- Buying antibiotics without prescription /over the counter
- Antibiotic intake practice without medical personnel consultation

"As antibiotic medication is faster than other medicines, so antibiotic medicine should be a good option"



"If I feel healthy, I do not take antibiotics anymore. I suggest others to take that antibiotic too"

Factors Influencing Antibiotic Usage

- Dependency on antibiotics
- Affordability of antibiotics & Prescription Fee
- Tendency of Self-medication
- Lack of awareness about antibiotics and it's resistance
- Not completing full Course of Antibiotics.
- Antibiotics Sharing

Conclusion

- **A concerning trend of self-medication driven by convenience, cost factors, and lack of awareness was identified, contributing to the misuse of antibiotics and the risk of antibiotic resistance.**
- **Students pursuing health-related disciplines demonstrated relatively better knowledge and responsible antibiotic practices, suggesting the effectiveness of targeted education in fostering informed behavior.**
- **Implementing educational programs, integrating antibiotic awareness into academic curricula, and establishing supportive policies are critical steps to enhance responsible antibiotic use and address the growing threat of antibiotic resistance.**

References

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